being denied their working equipment like proper uniforms, safety equipment, safety shoes, boots, etc.;

(b) whether some of such material equipment provided from time to time are of poor standard;

(c) whether public sector manufacturing units are generally not given orders for such supplies;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the details of purchases made of each such item during the past two years and also the sources thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection of Indians residing in Germany

315. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman, Calcutta of the 12th November, 1991 captioned "Rally against racial attacks in Germany";

(b) whether some of the non-resident Indians have become victims and objects of such attacks;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with its counterpart in Germany and have sought protection of Indians residing there: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Government has seen newspaper reports of racial attacks in Germany against foreigners.

(b) No such incident against non-resident Indians has come to Government's attention.

(c) and (d) The Embassy of India in Germany is in regular contact with the German Government in order to ensure protection and welfare of non-resident Indians.

Returning of Sri Lankan refugees to their Homeland

316. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently sounded Sri Lanka about the eagerness of a good number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees to return to their homeland;

(b) what is the number of refugees from Sri Lanka who are housed in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) steps taken by Government so far to return these refugees to their homeland in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An estimated 1,11,130 refugees from Sri Lanka are presently housed in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Government are in touch with the Sri Lanka Government to work out modalities, including transportation, security etc. for Sri Lanka refugees desirous of returning to their home in North-East Sri Lanka.